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27 August 1992
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COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
Substantive session
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Rapporteur: Mr. Mame Balla SY (Senegal)

Addendum

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Usefulness and feasibility of installing an appropriate signalling system whenever a speech time-limit is established in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Introduction and overview

1. In paragraph 21 of its resolution 46/190, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in the context of the systematic and progressive replacement and upgrading of the equipment in the conference rooms, to make proposals to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking advantage of the experience gained by other organizations of the United Nations system, on the usefulness and feasibility of installing an appropriate signalling system to enable systematically each speaker, as well as the chairperson and participants, whenever a speech time-limit is established in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to monitor the time left before actually breaking the time-limit.

2. That report, as contained in document A/47/287, was considered by the Committee at its 341st meeting, on 27 August 1992, under other business.

Discussion

3. Further clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat on technical considerations, existing practices within the United Nations on establishing time-limits for speakers and on the possibility of renting rather than purchasing the system.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should install portable devices as described in paragraph 15 of the report of the Secretary-General, in sufficient numbers and in the most cost-effective manner possible.

5. The Committee requested the Secretariat to take into account the number of meetings at each conference-servicing location with a view to determining the number of devices required, when preparing the relevant statement of programme budget implications.

6. The Committee recommended that organs of the United Nations would use the signalling system by deciding on time-limits during meetings, which in the opinion of the Committee could lead to significant savings in conference-servicing resources. The Committee recommended that this possibility be brought to the attention of organs and users.